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LIFESTYLE COLUMNISTS

# @ your library: It's Lib-Con Time!

*Yesterday 9:01 p.m.*

Every spring, your Abilene Public Library celebrates nerdom in all its glory during Lib-Con. Our third annual weeklong mini comic convention begins today and goes through Saturday. There are programs for all ages at all three library locations throughout the week, and a full day of programs and events on Saturday, including "Free Comic Book Day." A complete calendar of events can be picked up at any library location, or found online at [www.abilenetx.com/apl/LibCon](http://www.abilenetx.com/apl/LibCon).

Lib-Con celebrates anime, manga, comics, superheroes, and all things pop culture, and this year's version is bigger and better than ever. Gamers, cosplayers, movie buffs and live action role players will all find something to interest them during the week.

Monday night, come to the Harry Potter Triwizard night, with three crafts and Harry Potter trivia to test your knowledge of the wizarding world. Tuesday evening, you'll have to choose between Anime Inspired Gaming with the gurus of the Gaming Place at the Main Library, Star Trek crafts and a movie at Mockingbird, or Minecraft Mania Night at the South Branch.

Wednesday, Star Wars is the focus (May the Fourth be with You!) with Death Star and lightsaber crafts, Star Wars gaming at Mockingbird, and an After Hours Fan Fic Writing Workshop at the Main Library. On Thursday, learn how to do horror-themed special effects makeup during a Face Off challenge at the Main Library, among other programs.

On Friday, the Gathering Place will take you beyond the same old kid's games during the "Beyond Candyland" program at the Main Library. A Steampunk Blaster workshop will teach you how to make your own steampunk accessories, while South Branch will host an After Hours movie for teens and adults. At the Main Library After Hours, join in a Nerf War for adults 18 and older (standard darts and Nerf guns, please — no high powered weapons.)

Saturday, the fun begins with a Gaming Demo with the Gathering Place from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Main Library. A superhero face painting station will dress you up with your favorite logo, and a Make & Take crafts program will feature all the crafts of the week, in case you missed one. An Anime Mini-Marathon begins at 9:30 a.m. in the Story Room. Play Cosplay Chess, with human chess pieces on a huge board beginning at 10 a.m., or see some awesome swordplay techniques from the Barony of Skywatch, a local Live Action Role Playing group.

Vendors will be available from 10 a.m. until 3 p.m. and food trucks (this year's we've got Rick'n Roller'z and the Sweet Side) will be on hand from 11:30 a.m. until 2 p.m., unless they run out of food like they did last year because of the demand! You're welcome to eat outside, or come in to our "Lunch & a Movie" program at noon featuring a recent, popular movie.

If you love the games of your youth, then our Retro Gaming program is for you. From Nintendo to Atari, we'll take you back to the days of joy sticks, Pong and Pacman for a chance to brush off your old skills, and maybe show a young whippersnapper a thing or two.

Last but not least, the Cosplay Contest winds up the day at 3 p.m. at the Main Library. We'll have a new "Baby & Me" parade, as well as child, teen and adult divisions. Registration is required, so bring your registration forms by the Main Library by 2:30 p.m. to enter. Guidelines for costumes and props are available online at the Lib-Con site.

Be sure to drop in to our programs, and let your nerd flag fly proudly! We'll look forward to seeing you here.

Janis C. Test is Information Services Manager at the Abilene Public Library, 202 Cedar St.

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